

# Cumberland Fire District Transitional Committee Meeting

Minutes      March 24, 2014      7:00pm

Hayden Library

The commissioners for the Cumberland Fire District Transitional Committee in attendance – Michael Spaziani NCFD and Dana Jones CFD, James Leonard CFD, Ron Champagne CHFD, James Scullin VFFD, Gerard Dion VFFD and Arthur Cowell CHFD, Absent John McCoy NCFD

Meeting called to order at 7:15pm.

Motion to accept the minutes of the February meeting was made by Jim Scullin and seconded by Jim Leonard. Motion passed unanimously.

Financial/Legal – A By-Law draft was sent from Jim Leonard. John will update and send out in the next week or so for everyone to look at. Mike Spaziani stated that John McCoy was looking at the budget and will put together the savings over the past few years, i.e. down one chief, one deputy etc. Still waiting for figures from VFIS. Chief Finlay stated that the intent is to have everyone on the same BCBS plan to realize savings.

Buildings & Apparatus – Still looking at possibilities for administrative space. The 3<sup>rd</sup> floor at the Hayden center was looked at but access through the preschool would be an issue. Dana Jones described the space at the National Grid building on Mendon Road. There is more space than needed. Could be sublet. Dana will make an appointment for the chiefs to walk through. Station 2 the ladder from NCFD fits but the station would have to be enlarged. The best option is to go back onto the state property. The public safety complex should still be considered. Information about the cost and location are needed. The location is important to the response times noted on the Varone report.

Labor – Mike Spaziani met with the chiefs, he is looking for their ideal org charts. He is also waiting for the resolution of the interim contracts.

Media – Nothing to Report

## Old Business

Individual Districts Liabilities - CHFD retiree dental is based on written agreement 2 are paid via the district and 3 are reimbursed to the district. Mike Spaziani stated he needed the documentation to protect them. Ron Champagne said there is some documentation but some was verbal. He stated the new board would have to decide if they would allow the buy in of benefits. Ron also stated that the new town evaluation throws John McCoy's work out. The reevaluations have come back 20-35K lower. The current numbers are no good. He stated that 4 properties alone he knows of are down \$4 million.

New Business – Alternative sources of revenue should be looked at. Ron Champagne will speak to Rep McLaughlin about what the state allows to be taxed for communication towers and underground pipe and wire. Mike Spaziani asked Ron to continue to look at new revenue streams. Ron would also like someone to look into the PUC standards for fire hydrant charges. Ron Champagne stated that each district should get an idea where they stand with tax collections. When are tax sales conducted, what are the criteria? How many years in arrears? CHFD is very aggressive with collections. All districts need to make an effort to clear up any back taxes before the November election. Ron doesn't think collection of taxes quarterly will save the district money. Mike Spaziani noted that many people in the public have asked to pay quarterly. Chief Finlay stated the tax collectors and treasurers should be consolidated and a concerted effort to get the money owed in should be made. Social Security coverage for employees will be discussed next month. Dana Jones noted the fire prevention function should be discussed.

Public Comment - none

Next Meeting – April 28, 2014 7pm

Meeting adjourned 8:47.

Focus Group for the Tax Collectors, Treasurers and part time employees led by Chief Cimino.